

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF  
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Charles Vincent Serio, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Joaquin L. G. Salas, of Guam, to be United States Marshal for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Marshal for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of four years.

Jose Gerardo Troncoso, of Nevada, to be United States Marshal for the District of Nevada for the term of four years.

Kenneth Ray McFerran, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND  
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 1310. A bill to provide market transition assistance for tobacco producers, tobacco industry workers, and their communities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. D'AMATO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. MACK, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. REED):

S. 1311. A bill to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. 1312. A bill to save lives and prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles through an improved national, State, and local child protection program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. FORD):

S. Res. 138. A resolution authorizing expenditures for consultants by the Committee on Rules and Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr.

WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. Res. 139. A resolution to designate April 24, 1998, as "National Child Care Professional's Day", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FORD (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HOLLINGS AND Mr. THURMOND):

S. 1310. A bill to provide market transition assistance for tobacco producers, tobacco industry workers, and their communities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR  
FARMERS ACT

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, on June 20, the attorneys general of several States emerged from a Washington hotel conference room to announce a proposed national tobacco settlement. The announcement sent Washington spin doctors to work, pronouncing the defeat of public enemy number one—the tobacco industry. Press release after press release painted a picture of fat cat tobacco executives, rich at the expense of public health, finally being called to account.

But this picture of tobacco is not what I see when I go home to Kentucky. There I see hard-working farmers trying to make an honest living off a crop that has helped hundreds of communities in my State thrive for centuries.

Maybe you've forgotten about the farmer. That wouldn't surprise me. They weren't in the room during the tobacco negotiations. They were not included in the final settlement, and to date, the only plan that mentions them would put them out of business.

Mr. President, it is as if the thousands of men and women who have been the bedrock of hundreds of communities simply no longer have any value.

Sixty thousand farm families produce tobacco in 119 of 120 counties in my State. While tobacco uses only 1 to 2 percent of their acreage, it produces 20 to 25 percent of their farm income. Along with these farm families are tens of thousands of workers who warehouse, process and manufacture tobacco. They all live in communities where every tobacco dollar has a multiplier effect on the local economy, rolling over three to four times.

And they're the reason I am here today.

Mr. President, I am pleased to join several of my colleagues in introducing legislation which addresses the needs of tobacco farmers, tobacco workers, and their communities and should provide the framework for taking care of them in any comprehensive legislation.

First and foremost, "taking care of them" means protecting the tobacco program.

Opponents of the program claim they're not attacking farmers, but

with the program goes stability, with the program goes the small family farmer, and with the program goes hundreds of small rural communities.

Mr. President, the program is the key to preventing fence row to fence row production.

It is the key to keeping tobacco prices high.

And it is the key to keeping tobacco production in the hands of small family farms and keeping rural communities alive.

Without the program, look for cheap cigarettes, look for the size of farms—at the very least—to triple in size. Look for family farms to go out of business, and look for the rural communities they sustain, to shut down.

What are the benefits of killing the program? For hard-working family farmers there simply are none.

That is why killing the program is a nonstarter. And even though criticisms are based either on misconceptions or misrepresentations of the program, we're willing to address them by covering all these costs with our legislation. But make no mistake, we're not willing to eliminate the program.

The legislation we're introducing today follows the principles every one of my colleagues went on record supporting in a September 9 Sense of the Senate amendment. We all agreed that tobacco growers should be fairly compensated as part of any Federal legislation to implement the tobacco settlement. We all agreed tobacco growing communities should be provided sufficient resources to adjust to the economic impact of any settlement legislation. We all agreed compensation to farmers and their communities should come from funds provided within the parameters of the national settlement, as paid by tobacco manufacturers. And we all agreed the tobacco program should be maintained and operated at no net cost to the taxpayer.

These four simple principles will mean the difference between a productive future for tobacco farmers and a "for sale" sign up at the end of the driveway—the difference between communities where a farmer's children stay to raise their children and a ghost town.

At the core of the legislation is the establishment of a Tobacco Community Revitalization Trust Fund. The trust fund will provide compensation for farmers, investment funds for communities, and education and retraining funds, all within the parameters of the tobacco program and the national tobacco settlement dollar figure.

First, the fund will provide tobacco quota holders with "Payments for Lost Tobacco Quota" based on the drop in the amount of tobacco they can grow. The national tobacco settlement could cause consumption to drop substantially, which would translate into deep cuts in each farm's tobacco quota and each farmer's income. Under our bill, quota holders will receive \$4 per pound per year for every pound by which the